

TOWN OF NEWINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2020

This meeting was presented as a Zoom Webinar/Meeting.

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2020 SEP 28 AM 10:42


Town Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sadil called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. via Zoom.

II. ROLL CALL

Ben Ancona, III
John Bachand
John Casasanta
Kathleen-Marie Clark
Richard Lavarriere (*arrived late*)
Alan Paskewich
Andreas Sadil
Max Turgeon

Also present:

Erik Hinckley, Inland Wetland Agent
Susan Gibbon, Recording Secretary
Gail Budrejko, Town Council Liaison
James Krupienski, Meeting Moderator

*(*These minutes of the September 15, 2020 meeting are verbatim.)*

Chairman Sadil: All right, point of order here, I am going to seat Commissioner Ancona for Commissioner Block and then Commissioner Turgeon for Commissioner Lavarriere. Noted?

S. Gibbon: Yes.

Chairman Sadil: Ok. I'm moving on to Item III Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items, each speaker limited to two minutes.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

(each speaker limited to 2 minutes)

Chairman Sadil: Do we have anyone on line James?

J. Krupienski: We have um...actually, we have NCTV as one of our panelists and one of our liaisons. I am moving the liaison over right now, so at this point it looks like we just have NCTV on the attendees' side.

E. Hinckley: I believe Ms. Foley is speaking later.

J. Krupienski: Is she speaking or is she doing the streaming for NCTV?

E. Hinckley: I believe that she will also be speaking later when Commissioner Clark has a discussion.

J. Krupienski: Ok. I guess at that point we can move forward, at that point then.

Chairman Sadil: Thank you. Moving on to Item IV acceptance of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 18, 2020.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of August 18, 2020

Chairman Sadil: Any additions or corrections from the Commissioners?

Commissioner Clark: Um...do I raise my hand?

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Clark: Yes, on page 8 at the bottom, Mr. Hinckley speaks. It's not really a correction, but there is some language in there that I can't understand. The last sentence for example, I wonder if Mr. Hinckley could look at it this paragraph. I...I was just confused by what that meant and I don't know if there was an error that he could fix or if...if we just leave it like that.

E. Hinckley: Um...I'm trying to find my copy of the minutes. I typically don't have them.

J. Krupinski: Which page are you on? I have it on the screen.

E. Hinckley: Hold on, I got it.

Chairman Sadil: Thanks James. Page 8.

Commissioner Clark: Almost to the bottom of the page. Where it begins "invasives."

E. Hinckley: Yup, I'm reading it right now.

Chairman Sadil: Where it says "invasives will be identified and removed along the area that the original permit was deemed"...

E. Hinckley: We could say along the easterly side of the pond. Does that clarify it for you?

Commissioner Clark: That will be fine, it was really the last sentence. I thought that was...I really didn't know what that meant, but it was the last sentence that I...or the last two sentences that I...I couldn't make head or tail of.

E. Hinckley: "Nothing on the Westerly side at prior permitting"there was nothing you guys permitted on the westerly side but you did allow them to trim back to keep the path open. That is what original permit said. If that isn't clear, that's what the...

Commissioner Clark: Um...I think it's the word "always"... "Nothing on the Westerly side at prior permitting was allowed to be cut," or, it sounds like it's saying you couldn't cut it and it's also saying you could always cut it.

S. Gibbon: I think....can I say something. I think that there is period in there that doesn't belong in there. It should read "nothing on the Westerly side at prior permitting was always allowed to be cut in that area that will be identified and removed." I think there is an extra period in there by mistake.

Commissioner Clark: Okay.

E. Hinckley: Does that work?

S. Gibbon: I think that works.

Commissioner Clark: I guess when all is said and done, I just want to know what was allowed to be cut and what isn't allowed to be cut going forward. That...it was the...not the words but what it meant.

E. Hinckley: Ok. All right. So, for clarification, the original permit that we, as discussed, the easterly side is what you guys permitted to be cut, from the bridge at the falls to the bridge at the south end. The westerly side the only... nothing was allowed to be cut, but trimming was allowed to keep the pathway opened and clear for pedestrian traffic.

Commissioner Clark: Ok. So, it was the...uh...can you clarify the...what you just said about the two bridges? That was helpful, but I would like to be able to write it as you said it.

E. Hinckley: So, from the bridge at the falls okay, easterly and southerly to the bridge at the south end on the east side; that is where the cutting was allowed.

Commissioner Clark: Ok.

E. Hinckley: It was to be identified and cut. One the westerly side, only trimming was permitted to keep the path clear and open for pedestrians.

Commissioner Clark: Ok, thank you, I understand now.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Bachand.

Commissioner Bachand: So that's a little confusing the bridge to the bridge. I did talk to Bill last night and he mentioned the same terminology um...but clearly that's part of the western side. I mean if you, everything uh...if you went clockwise from the bridge at the falls around, isn't that considered the western side? I mean the bridge is on the western side.

E. Hinckley: That was the terminology that was...that's the way it was permitted before I was here, not before I was here, before I was doing it. So that's the way they always used. From the northerly bridge, easterly and southerly, to the southerly bridge.

Commissioner Bachand: So the only strip that would be um...not touched, would be the between the bridges, the short...the short span between the bridges.

E. Hinckley: I'm...I'm not sure what you are talking about. There's no short span between the bridges.

Commissioner Bachand: Well, if you go one way bridge to bridge, it is three quarters of the pond. If you go the other way it's one quarter of the pond...not even.

E. Hinckley: Again...

Commissioner Bachand: Unless I'm confused. But I heard that term last night from Bill and I was a little bit...a little bit uh, taken aback.

E. Hinckley: We are probably getting a little off track. All we are trying to do is correct the minutes right now...

Chairman Sadil: Correct. I was going to interject, so please what's...

E. Hinckley: I can discuss that later when I...

Chairman Sadil: Later when we have the agenda item okay. So, as far as the minutes are concerned, Kathleen are you satisfied with the language? Ms. Gibbon please reply if you're good with the correction.

S. Gibbon: I am good with the correction; it will be noted on the...in the minutes.

Commissioner Clark: And I'm also happy with correction as long as we are going to discuss the meaning later.

E. Hinckley: It will be discussed.

Commissioner Clark: Yes. Thank you.

Chairman Sadil: Any other corrections or additions?

Commissioner Clark: Give me one moment...uh...I'm flipping pages to get there and, uh, it is page 15. At the top of the page there is a long paragraph by Mr. Hinckley and on the third line it says "minor trimming around those two ponds, because they're not super bowl."

E. Hinckley: Great question. Why don't we just strike "because they're not super bowl." I think that would work.

Commissioner Clark: That sound's great.

Chairman Sadil: Let's strike that from the record. Ms. Gibbons, that clause there "because they're not super bowl" we're going to strike that from the minutes.

S. Gibbon: Yeah, sure, of course.

Chairman Sadil: Any other additions or corrections from the commissioners?

Commissioner Clark: Yes, I...I still have another if that's ok.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Clark: Yes, on page 17, I'm sorry Mr. Hinckley it's you again.

E. Hinckley: Oh, man, me again.

Commissioner Clark: Right in the middle of the page there's a paragraph and it says "they were just working with the existing areas they had openings and if they could winded them?."

E. Hinckley: That's probably "widen".

Chairman Sadil: Widen them.

Commissioner Clark: Would do what?

E. Hinckley: So when they had a small opening and when they removed invasives they made it wider.

Commissioner Clark: Wider. Ok, great. I think that's it but let me just flip. Yes. Thank you very much.

Chairman Sadil: All right. Any other additions, corrections, deletions from the commissioners? Let me span the group real quick. Seeing none, may I have a motion to accept the meeting minutes as amended...

Commissioner: So moved.

Chairman Sadil: For September 15, 2020. Who is that speaking?

Commissioner Turgeon: Uh, sorry, Max Turgeon.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Turgeon voted by...motion by Commissioner Turgeon. I need a second.

Commissioner Bachand: John Bachand. Second.

Chairman Sadil: Seconded by Commissioner Bachand. All in favor?

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Sadil: Opposed? Abstentions? Meeting minutes passed. Continuing on to Item V New Business - Application 2020-15, 550 Cedar Street, For A Sidewalk In The URA, Owner: State Of Connecticut, Applicant: Dakota Partners Inc., 1264 Main Street, Waltham, MA 02451.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Application 2020-15, 550 Cedar Street, For A Sidewalk In The URA, Owner: State Of Connecticut, Applicant: Dakota Partners Inc., 1264 Main Street, Waltham, MA 02451

Chairman Sadil: Will the applicant please step forward and identify themselves?

E. Hinckley: Uh...Andreas can I just give a short preamble here?

Chairman Sadil: Sure.

E. Hinckley: The application is before you tonight because Dakota Partners is adding sidewalks to their pre-approved project. So, this a different permit, different application. They're extending sidewalk, as you can see, from their site westerly to the access road that goes off of Fenn Road into the area where the Starbucks currently is. So, it's the same engineer, Mr. Walter; he will be presenting for the applicant this evening.

Will Walter: Sure, thanks Erik. For the record, Will Walter, professional engineer, with Alfred Benesch and Company and I've got Mark Pilotte with us, he is representing Dakota. A little bit of background, 550 Cedar Street, on the right side of the page, is a three building residential development that was approved by this commission back in the fall of 2018 and there was some work done in the upland review area. Subsequent to that, we have received site plan approval for that project as well. One of the conditions of that approval is that we are going to work with the State of Connecticut to construct sidewalks on the north side of Cedar Street from 550 Cedar Street, our development, west over the railroad bridge, then after that there is a bridge over a stream, as you continue west there is a bridge over the Fastrak and then before Fenn Road, there is an access road that goes back down to the Fastrak. So, we're proposing to construct a sidewalk from our site down to that driveway entrance; not all of...we are not putting new sidewalks in that entire length, probably about a third of it already has side walks and we are filling in gaps with those sidewalks. So, we've been working with Conn DOT because it is in their right of way and we've come up with a solution that is acceptable to Conn DOT. We met with the members of the planning department, in the planning and zoning commission this morning just to bring them up to speed as to what the design...what the design is that has been presented before Conn DOT and what they have accepted. So, the planning and zoning commission and the town planner are in the loop. And essentially, if you guys don't know what it's like out there, on the north side of the side walk there is probably five to six to seven feet from the edge of the curb to a guard rail and then on the other side of the guard rail there's a slope, a significant slope, down to the really large wetland system on the north side of Route 175 and it is on the south side as well. So, we are before this commission because we are technically in the upland review area per the GIS wetland map. So from a regulatory standpoint, we are in the buffer, the upland review area. We're not disturbing any soils because we're, you know, we're 20 or 30 feet up above that actual wetlands and we're up in Conn DOT's right of way right next to Route 175 and we're not proposing any retaining walls or any fill to the north of that slope. We're not proposing anything...we're just...everything we

are doing is going to be between the curb and that existing guard rail and we're not touching that guard rail. Everything right now slopes from a one or two percent from the guard rail back south down towards the curb, so any disturbance that we do to put in this sidewalk is going to flow back down towards Cedar Street. We'll be putting silts, uh, filter baskets in those catch basins, but nothing is going to flow north, back towards the wetlands. So, from a wetlands disturbance standpoint it is relatively simple plan and relatively simple presentation and that is really the gist of what we are doing out there. We are requesting that the commission have this done via administrative approval and we can work with Erik directly to satisfy any concerns he has. Again, we feel like this is clearly not a significant impact and it's just something because are really only in the upland review area on the wetlands map.

Chairman Sadil: Um, Mr. Walter, one question. So, on the map that's being presented, where exactly is the upland review area, the buffer, that you will be encroaching with the sidewalk? Can we have a visual, exactly point that out, what area. It's not along the whole extent of the project, but where is that wetland line that the commissioners need to know about.

Mr. Walter: Well the wetlands...

Chairman Sadil: The upland review area...

Mr. Walter: Yeah, if you look at the wetlands, they are signified on the plan that we are looking at on the screen by a squiggly dash line, if you will; the 100 foot upland review area, there's a large note on the plan, if you look there commissioner...

E. Hinckley: The plan is up on the screen.

Mr. Walter: So essentially what we have is basically between the Amtrak rail crossing and the CT Fastrak rail crossing the entirety of Route 175 right of way, between those east and west boundaries is within the upland review area.

Chairman Sadil: Even though it is elevated over the upland review area, right?

Mr. Walter: Yeah, that's correct. Yep, it's elevated.

E. Hinckley: And I also want to point out, obviously we have a lot of pavement, fill in there with a lot of fill material in the URA that's in that corridor.

Chairman Sadil: It's not really...does it go all the way from the entrance of the proposed facility or, I know there's interruptions there, but it's not really at the entrance you are in the upland review area, but it's at the railroad area and to the west of that, that basically is in the upland review area.

Mr. Walter: Yeah, that is correct commissioner and it doesn't go west all the way to where we're bringing the sidewalk. I mean, you can see on this plan, we have a series of stationing. You can see on the plan we start at one plus zero zero, that's at Fenn Road, so right about at station three plus 50, that's the drive entrance, that is where you see the sidewalk right there, that is where we're starting our new sidewalk and if you move over to the right at about station eight plus zero zero, that is, that's the limit of the upland...the hundred foot upland review area, that is the western edge of it and it extends from there east, all the way, essentially to the railroad crossing.

Chairman Sadil: That's the line on the map that's off to the right there.

Mr. Walter: That's correct.

Chairman Sadil: I'll open it up to other commissioners if they have any questions for Mr. Walter.

Commissioner Bachand: I'll just throw one out there. John Bachand.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Bachand.

Commissioner Bachand: Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. Um...it's not really wetland related. I don't have a problem with the impact on the wetland, I agree with the applicant, but I would just be curious if there would be a guardrail between the curb and the sidewalk and it's probably not their responsibility, but I was just curious about that.

Mr. Walter: No, there is no guardrail.

Commissioner Bachand: It is so close to the moving traffic, it's kind of scary. I ride on there now, I call it a goat path.

Mr. Walter: Yeah and what we are doing commissioner is, again working with Conn DOT is we're trying to provide as much of a green belt as we can between the curb and the sidewalk and in some cases between two and three feet. Again, we are working directly with Conn DOT. We have had three meetings with them to try to make it as safe as possible.

Commissioner Bachand: Yeah, I hope someday they put a guard rail up there because... anyway that's all I had. Thank you.

Mr. Walter: You're welcome.

Chairman Sadil: Any other commissioners have any questions for Mr. Walter at this time? All right, seeing none, the question to answer is the request if you would like to do this via agent approval with town staff. Do any of the commissioners have any objections by doing this via agent approval by Mr. Hinckley. I personally do not, I'm willing to do agent approval on this, it is pretty straight forward and I think it's minimal impact, if any, to the wetland. But I welcome other comments from the commissioners to make that decision.

Commissioner: I concur.

Chairman Sadil: Thank you Commissioner Bachand. Commissioner Paskewich you ok with agent approval?

Commissioner Paskewich: Yes, I concur also with agent approval.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Clark?

Commissioner Clark: Um, I also agree that that is appropriate.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Casasanta.

Commissioner Casasanta: I have no problem with an agent approval on this one.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Ancona.

Commissioner Ancona: Nope, sounds good to me.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Turgeon.

Commissioner Turgeon: No objections here, that sounds good.

Chairman Sadil: All right then, um, madam secretary, my I have a motion to accept agent approval for Application 2020-15 550 Cedar Street please.

Secretary Clark: Yes, Mr. Chair. *At this time, I would like to make a motion to allow an agent approval of Application 2020-15 550 Cedar Street for a sidewalk in the upland review area.*

Chairman Sadil: Thank you. Can I have a second?

Commissioner Paskewich: Second by Commissioner Paskewich.

Chairman Sadil: Seconded by Commissioner Paskewich. Discussion? All in favor?

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Sadil: Opposed? Abstentions? None. Motion passes unanimously. Thank you Mr. Walter.

Mr. Walter: Yup, thank you very much. Good night.

E. Hinckley: I'll be in touch Will.

Mr. Walter: Thanks Erik.

Chairman Sadil: Ok, moving on to New Business Item V - B. Application 2020-16, 6 Winterberry Court, For A Building Addition In The URA, Owner/Applicant: Bhargav Patel, 6 Winterberry Court, Newington, CT 06111.

B. Application 2020-16, 6 Winterberry Court, For A Building Addition In The URA, Owner/Applicant: Bhargav Patel, 6 Winterberry Court, Newington, CT 06111

Chairman Sadil: Will the representative for the applicant please step forward.

E. Hinckley: Again, I'll just give a quick review here. This is typically, all this work is within the URA, the entire lot is encumbered by the URA. There is not wetland on the site as you can see on the map. Typically building additions come before the commission, so that is why they are here this evening.

Chairman Sadil: Whoever is going to speak for the applicant at this time, please come forward. Mr. Sulweski if you are speaking, you are on mute.

E. Hinckley: Yeah, he is muted, I cannot unmute him.

Commissioner: Upper right corner.

Bill Sulewski: Is that better?

E. Hinckley: There you go.

Mr. Sulewski: Ok, I'm sorry about that I'm kind of a dinosaur when it comes to computers I'm still with a couple cans of Campbell's and so forth. But anyway, hopefully I'm gonna be the one that hopefully approved. I'm going to be working on that project.

Chairman Sadil: Ok. So please identify your name and address for the record please.

Mr. Sulewski: It's William Sulewski, 48 Farmington Avenue, New Britain, CT.

Chairman Sadil: Thank you. You may proceed.

E. Hinckley: Do you just want to briefly Bill. The size and what you plan on doing.

Mr. Sulewski: It's going to be um... right now there's a deck which is ready to come down by itself, but they want to remove it because they have an elderly person, she's a 70 year old female, she's got problems with her knees and hip and because they have so many sets of stairs there, they want to do an addition so it's going to be on one level which would be our extra room for her and a small bathroom adjacent would be part of that. That would put a lot of relief on the family that lives there taking care of her and I can relate to that because I had to take care of my mother the last three years of her life so it's not an easy job. So, I'm hoping that we will be able to proceed with the this project and hopefully that lady will be able to benefit.

Chairman Sadil: Mr. Sulewski, I do have one question. Currently the deck that is there is on an upper level and this new deck will be at the ground level.

Mr. Sulewski: No, it is all going to be on the upper level, because it's on a slope.

Chairman Sadil: Ok, I couldn't quite make it out on Google Maps, but it will be elevated and there will be solid tubes and beams going up, and it will be the same dimensions as the prior deck?

Mr. Sulewski: Yes. Well it's gonna...well, the deck is...I don't know, it's just a mess. But what I, what they need is 18 feet away from the house, 13 feet across, because there is a dining room, so they want to but right to it. So, in other words, they are trying to maximize the room because they are going to have a bed in there and a bathroom because that woman is not exactly ready to you know roll around anywhere.

E. Hinckley: So I believe, just as you pointed out Commissioner Sadil, there are going to be peers there basically and the number of peers he needs to support that addition.

Mr. Sulewski: Every six feet, 12-inch peers, whatever it takes. I've done it many times so I have no problem with whatever isn't working.

E. Hinckley: Whatever building is going to require for the peers and that is going to be the disturbance, you know, the few square feet required for each peer.

Mr. Sulewski: Ok, I'll have that squared away with them.

Chairman Sadil: Well, I have no further questions so I am going to open it up to the other commissioners for their comments please.

Mr. Sulewski: Is there a way we can have it expedited? Because I submitted the paperwork during the time we had the storm and also with the mail being as slow as it is we lost quite a bit of time and they are kind of concerned about it because they want to get her in there as soon as possible.

Chairman Sadil: Understood Mr. Sulewski. I understand. So we're going to open it up to the commissioners for any comment relative to the wetlands impact. I open it up, so let's do first things first.

Mr. Sulewski: Ok.

Commissioner Bachand: I'll start off then. John Bachand.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Bachand.

Commissioner Bachand: So we're not changing the footprint there is already something there in that current footprint. Correct?

Mr. Sulewski: Correct.

Commissioner Bachand: It's just now we are going to have a roof over, it's going to be an enclosed addition, it's not a deck.

Mr. Sulewski: That deck is going out because it's very cheesy...

Commissioner Bachand: I know, I understand, but in that same footprint we are going to have a one story addition, it is just going to be elevated off the ground...

Mr. Sulewski: Perfect, exactly...

Commissioner Bachand: With a roof over it.

Mr. Sulewski: Yes.

Commissioner Bachand: So we gaining a little bit of impervious, but not much.

Mr. Sulewski: Yeah.

Commissioner Bachand: I honestly don't have a problem.

Chairman Sadil: Ok, thank you. Any other commissioners wish to comment at this time?
Commissioner Casasanta?

Commissioner Casasanta: Just a quick question about the upland review area. That is all seeded lawn, grass area?

Mr. Sulewski: Correct. Yes.

Commissioner Casasanta: Ok, thank you.

J. Krupienski: Commissioner Lavariere has his hand raised.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Lavariere, hello.

Commissioner Lavariere: Hi, Richard Lavariere. Um, just for the record, I want to disclose that 6 Winterberry Court is across the street and down one from me. I don't feel that this...I do not feel that the close proximity to my house would anyway impede my ability to give an impartial opinion for this, but I did want to disclose that for the record, ok. Question. How far is the, it's a little unclear, I mean I get the idea generally from the approximated scale, but how far is the back edge of the proposed structure from the wetland?

E. Hinckley: Give me a minute and I'll scale that and get you that number. It looks like 50 feet.

Commissioner Bachand: I'm trying to figure out where Winterberry Court is.

Commissioner Lavariere: The other side of the wetlands is Wethersfield.

Chairman Sadil: Just for the record Commissioner Lavariere, Commissioner Turgeon is seated for you tonight, I didn't see you at the beginning. There's no worry there Commissioner Lavariere, Commissioner Turgeon will be seated for you.

E. Hinckley: The proposed building addition is approximately 35 feet from the rear property line which is the wetland line.

Commissioner Lavariere: Sorry you said, Richard here, you said 30 feet?

E. Hinckley: 35 feet.

Commissioner Lavariere: 35 feet. Thank you.

Chairman Sadil: All right. Any other questions from the commissioners for the applicant? All right, seeing none at this time. How do the commissioners feel about granting agent approval for the applicant for this permit. I'm in favor, I have no issue doing this as an agent approval. I think it is more or less minimal impact of what was already approved on the site when the home was built, so I am in favor of going forward with an agent approval to help the applicant expedite the project. So, Commissioner Paskewich, what's your take?

Commissioner Paskewich: I concur also and I would like to help expedite this project because the weather could turn, we don't know and if it's an elder that needs help you know I'm all for that.

Chairman Sadil: Thank you. Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Clark: Um, I'm with you, I agree, let's expedite it.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Bachand?

Commissioner Bachand: I agree as well.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Casasanta.

Commissioner Casasanta: Yes, agent approval will be fine in this case.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Ancona?

Commissioner Ancona: I completely agree.

Chairman Sadil: Thank you. Commissioner Turgeon?

Commissioner Turgeon: I support it as well.

Chairman Sadil: All right, thank you. Therefore Madam Secretary, may I have a motion to do agent approval for Application 2020-16, 6 Winterberry Court for agent approval.

Secretary Clark: Yes, Mr. Chair. *At this time, I would like to make a motion to allow an agent approval of Application 2020-16, 6 Winterberry Court for a building addition in the upland review area.*

Commissioner Lavarriere: Yeah, I second. Richard here.

Chairman Sadil: You are not seated sir, I'm sorry...

Commissioner Lavarriere: What do you mean?

Chairman Sadil: You are not seated.

Commissioner Casasanta: Second.

Chairman Sadil: Second by Commissioner Casasanta. Thank you Commissioner Casasanta. Discussion? All in favor?

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Sadil: Opposed? Abstentions? Motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Sulewski: Thank you very much.

E. Hinckley: I'll be in touch Bill.

Mr. Sulewski: Thank you very much Erik.

E. Hinckley: No problem.

Mr. Sulewski: Thank you very much everyone, thank you.

Chairman Sadil: All right, moving on to Item VI - Old Business, Internal Rules Committee.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Internal Rules Committee

Chairman Sadil: Do you want to ick this one off Mr. Hinckley, or should Commissioner Bachand?

E. Hinckley: Sure. I spoke with the town attorney again on this issue and I had mentioned that, you know, after the last meeting that Commissioner Bachand would probably be getting in touch with him and apparently he already had, so Commissioner Bachand and he had some discussions and Attorney Ancona basically reiterated the same thing - he sees no need for the change and he basically pointed out, which was brought up by I believe Commissioner Casasanta last month, that something we talk about on one night, could be an application the next month or a year later. So, I don't know if Commissioner Bachand would like to share anything, but this will be the last night if there are no other changes to the rules, which I haven't received any. So, you guys let me know.

Commissioner Bachand: Um...yeah, I uh....

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Bachand.

Commissioner Bachand: Yeah, John Bachand, um...I agree with the way Erik put it. I did talk to Ben, uh, Attorney Ancona and he um... he did say exactly, he put it in almost the same terms as Commissioner Casasanta did. I normally agree with him on most things, on this one I don't, but that's

ok, uh, I'm willing to go with the consensus of the commission too. So, I think that there's no, we're not going to have any changes to the rules. I don't know how we disband the committee or the subcommittee, but I'll let Commissioner Clark, because she was part of it too, she should have a chance to say something too.

Commissioner Clark: Commissioner Clark here. Commissioner Bachand and I did discuss this and um...I agree at this time taking into account the town attorney's opinion that is something to um...put aside and disband the committee for now.

Chairman Sadil: Ok, thank you. So, this will come off for now.

E. Hinckley: Yup, I will remove it and if in the future you guys want to revisit all the rules, is somebody wants to look at them, feel free and we can move forward.

Chairman Sadil: Thank you for your time, thank you for this. Moving on to Old Business, Item B - Vernal Pools.

B. Vernal Pools

Chairman Sadil: Um, I think we had a meeting last time going over the revisions of the regs relative to vernal pools. I think Commissioner Paskewich that was your open item for tonight. Is there any comments with the revisions that were proposed? Any comments from the commissioners on that.

Commissioner Paskewich: Just to comment, Commissioner Paskewich here. Can we go around the table and have each commissioner speak one way or the other so we have a consensus or not.

Chairman Sadil: Well, starting with myself, this is Chairman Sadil. I would...I helped write...I was on the committee with Commissioner Paskewich so I helped him write them, so I am in favor, but we were looking for feedback from uh the other commissioners. We can start with Commissioner Clark if you like.

Commissioner Clark: Um, I don't have it in front of me, but I did read it between the last meeting and this meeting and everything looks good to me.

Chairman Sadil: Ok, uh, Commissioner Bachand.

Commissioner Bachand: Um...I did read it um...I don't recall having any problem with it so I can't recall all the changes or everything that was in it, but I didn't have a problem, otherwise I would remember.

Chairman Sadil: Ok. Commissioner Casasanta.

Commissioner Casasanta: Excuse me, yes, I'm all in favor of the revisions. I'm 100% behind them.

Chairman Sadil: Ok. Then we have Commissioner Ancona.

Commissioner Ancona: I'm in favor completely.

Chairman Sadil: Ok, and then Commissioner Lavarriere I'll go to you. Have you had a chance to review the those?

Commissioner Lavarriere: Yeah, I'm in favor of them.

Chairman Sadil: Fine, thank you and Commissioner Turgeon, do you have any comments and did you have a chance to review them?

Commissioner Turgeon: I concur with the rest of the commission.

Chairman Sadil: All right then, so we have unanimous consensus. So, um...Mr. Hinckley, what is the next step? Can we vote on this this evening or do we have to go to town council with this?

E. Hinckley: Yeah, you can vote to send it to council basically, um... you don't even have to do that. I can develop these and get them finalized for the review process, because they actually have to go to DEEP first. They get reviewed at DEEP level to see if they have any comment and then once I get a response from them, then it can go before the commission, so, or before the council, so it could be, time frame wise, you know, it could be another 60 days before any action is taken. Because I think DEEP has 30 to 60 days to make comment and then we go through the council process.

Chairman Sadil: There's no more action on that from the commission at this time.

E. Hinckley: No, if these are what you are going to go with, then this is what I will get prepared and submit.

Chairman Sadil: All right, thank you. Moving on to Item VIII - A. Agent Approvals.

E. Hinckley: Actually, you skipped Item VII.

Chairman Sadil: Excuse me, I'm sorry. Item VII - Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items, each speaker limited to 2 minutes. My apologies, sorry.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (each speaker limited to 2 minutes)

Chairman Sadil: Is there anyone on the line James?

J. Krupienski: We have Ms. Foley online and if she's planning on speaking at this point, this would be the point where she would utilize the raise hand feature - it's either *9 on the participant's window at the bottom of the Zoom application and there she is. So, I'll unmute her and allow her to talk.

Chairman Sadil: Please.

J. Krupienski: Please state your name and address for the record and then you can proceed.

Patty Foley: I'm Patty Foley, and I live at 51 Crown Ridge and I believe um...that I will be speaking to you when we get to evasive um...uh, invasive plants and so forth. I'm here from the, as chair of the Environmental Quality Commission and part of the team of for sustainability in Newington. So, I just wanted to say hi, I'm here and I look forward to working with this commission so that we can actually get on the map about evasive species education and so forth. Thank you.

E. Hinckley: Yeah, I believe that she is going to speak when Kathleen speaks about invasives.

Chairman Sadil: Ok, thank you Ms. Foley. Is here anyone else James on the line?

J. Krupienski: No other public attendance at this time.

Chairman Sadil: All right, now moving on to Section VIII, Communications and Reports - Agent Approvals.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

A. Agent Communications

Chairman Sadil: Mr. Hinckley do you have anything for the commission?

E. Hinckley: Just a couple of notes. I did two agent approvals this month - 149 Knollwood Road for a gazebo in the URA and 49 Schoolhouse Road for a deck in the URA. And I just want to point out, a commissioner asked me recently you know what kind of conditions and stuff do these agent approvals get, how does that work? Basically, they always get the same 10 standard conditions that you issue as a commission and I can always, as you can, enforce other conditions as well. So, it's not like they are getting a free pass, so they still go through the same process, it's just the timeline is a little

quicker than the 60 days, or 65 days, it sometimes required statutorily if you hear before the commission. And all of these are minor disturbances and the ones that I believe are issues, I have them come before the commission like tonight the Winterberry Court for the building addition and obviously the Dakota property is one for the sidewalk. So, in the past, you guys have made allowances to allow agent approvals after hearing them, so that's all that is there. I am currently working with 23 Burden Lane for a shed in the URA. Um...I'm going to move on now to the Mill Pond Park benches, trimming and all that good stuff that was discussed at the last meeting. So, currently parks is going to continue working under their existing permit for trimming along the easterly edge of the pond from the bridge at the falls, to the other bridge at south side along the easterly side of the pond and they will, uh, anything that needs to get trimmed will be identified, I will be out there as well, I'll flag it and they will probably do this work in the fall and over the winter. Currently, and along those lines as well, they have moved their memorial bench program out of Mill Pond over the Churchill Park, I'm told, so they will not be asking for a modification for the benches. So, basically, I don't think that we are going to be seeing them anytime soon. That is all I have on that and that is the end of my comments this evening.

Chairman Sadil: Thank you Mr. Hinckley. Moving onto Item VIII - B. Invasive Plants.

B. Invasive Plants

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Clark?

Commissioner Clark: Commissioner Clark here. I'm going to read you my report on talking a walk around Mill Pond and that should cover most of it. On three occasions in August, I walked around Mill Pond with the goal of identifying vegetation. On the first occasion I was accompanied by Anita Schaefer and we used the plant snap app, as well as our general knowledge, and the following invasive plants, these are on the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group list, were identified: Oriental bittersweet, purple loosestrife, Norway maple, European alder, burning bush, multi-flora rose, autumn olive, tree of heaven, porcelain berry and Japanese honeysuckle; two native plants, but can act invasive are riverbank grapes and weeping willow; and not really invasive, native, but may be considered undesirable in public area - poison ivy and poison sumac. I want to make note of the desirable plants, because it speaks to, I guess we're not going to be working with parks & rec., except obliquely, but there are, and when I talk about a location, I'm hoping I can use the same terminology but, I believe that when the plantings were done some years ago, the town put in two patches of a plant called red twig dogwood, they are still there, they are located on the east side, so when trimming occurs, these are plants that the town paid for and put in and they are desirable and they are growing well and one is located closer to the smaller bridge and the other is located closer to the workout equipment. They are both on the east side though, so even though we identified...

Chairman Sadil: Mr. Hinckley.

E. Hinckley: Yes, I have distinctly...we have discussed those with the parks departments, they are aware that those dogwoods are there and they are not to be touched.

Commissioner Clark: Excellent, thank you. And of course, we have all of our nice, big pine trees on the east side. Um...I also toured the pond perimeter on separate occasions with Councilor Budrejko and on another occasion with Commissioner Bachand then we discovered it. The big take away from the finding is the west bank if the pond is, by my estimate, 90% invasive plants, in many cases, multiple species entwined with each other creating an almost impenetrable barrier. Please note that some of the invasives are mature trees, there's a lot of Norway maples which I think we look at a maple tree and go it's a tree - they are an invasive species. So some of what may have earlier looked like a desirable sapling or larger is not necessarily a good tree to have. We also have tree of heaven...

Chairman Sadil: Excuse me Ms. Clark, Commissioner Clark. So, how mature was that Norway maple, what was the diameter of the trunk.

Commissioner Clark: I'm gonna say probably the size of my upper arm. I don't know that, anyway, I mean it's a tree. It's a tree, again, it's not a, you know, three inch, four inch sapling, it's probably six inches thick. You'd never look at it and think...

Chairman Sadil: It's well established.

Commissioner Clark: It's well established, yes. Actually the tree of heaven was interesting. There's a tree of heaven on the east side and we actually couldn't identify it, we had to send, and with using our app, we had to send pictures of it to UConn and they identified it for us. But I think the interesting thing is we hung on tight to the west side of the pond and the west side of the pond, if we want to control invasives in Newington, cutting that back frequently, which I believe is what parks & rec wanted to do in the first place, is something that I hope we work with them to permit and encourage that perhaps. Because it's just, it's just a tangled mess and I know that he was encouraged to do, you know he was worried the geese. I don't think a goose, I don't think a goose could make a nest in all of that stuff, but it is, as I said, I think the word is impenetrable and that side is pretty much invasive plants. There is quite a collection on the north side and in among everything else, except for those dogwoods and that's using my limited experience, but the app and most of these are easy to identify. I also plan to conduct similar excursions in some of the other locations in town like the Young Farm and Churchill. When Ms. Foley comes on and speaks, I will tell you how that's all gonna tie in, so that's my report on Mill Pond. I, so this is related, I made a video with Cheshire, not Cheshire, yeah it was Cheshire Land Trust, I ended up working with them and we filmed a video that was probably 30 minutes long where I was the narrator about invasive plants found on their property and it was quite fun to do. We certainly have the expertise, I think with NCTV, and it might be a nice project for us to use, and we will tell you how in a few minutes. So, I at least, I've at least seen how these things can work. We've been talking about invasive plants for as long as I've been on the commission and haven't really done anything, so I think this is a good project for us. So, I'm going to let Ms. Foley talk about Sustainable Connecticut.

Chairman Sadil: Ok, just before we do that Ms., Commissioner Clark, I do want to rewind, I didn't want to interrupt you but, about Mill Pond, what is the next step about, at least we have the permit to do the trimming on the east side, correct Mr. Hinckley.

E. Hinckley: Correct.

Chairman Sadil: So how can we incorporate some of the findings from Commissioner Clark into your project.

E. Hinckley: The permit, I believe, as we discussed, for the trimming, that was ancillary to the benches that they got approved at that time and the prior seated commission pushed them a little harder on some trimming, so I think that's the only reason that came into play at all. I believe that the work of the trimming of the trees and whatnot can be done under the general permit. I don't believe they need to have a separate permit to do this work on it. They're not clear cutting anything.

Chairman Sadil: I was coming from the mindset that we could do this concurrently; we could do this concurrently, not with another permit or...that's where I was coming from.

E. Hinckley: So, going forward if, if Ms. Clark would like to send her report to me first, I can just distribute to all of you and then I can also forward it to the parks director and see if they want to do anything. I could put some caveats in there like, hey, you know, if you guys want to go in and do some invasive work here and do some removal, I don't think you're gonna - a) the commission, I'm not trying to put words in your mouth, will say is not going to require a permit, we can identify what needs to be removed, flag it and you guys can remove it and, you know, there's not going to be any pushback from you guys. You may want them to plant something else in its place, I don't know because obviously we are not going to take that whole bank down and make it wide open. That's my thought, I don't know how you guys feel about it.

Chairman Sadil: I'm going to open it up to other commissioners at this time, based on our feelings from Commissioner Clark's report. Commissioner Bachand.

Commissioner Bachand: A couple of things um... John Bachand here. I think I concur with Erik that it probably is, probably does fall under the general permit if they're not doing clear cutting which we know they are not doing clear cutting. I just wanted to clarify one thing - we keep saying the east side and the west side and as I pointed out earlier, it's really, it really three quarters of the circumference of the pond is what, and again, this may not even matter now if they could work anywhere that they want under the general permit, but I just want to keep, when we keep saying sides it almost sounds like it's half and half, but it's nothing near that, it's, between the bridges at one direction is one quarter of the distance and the other way its three quarters of the distance. I just want to point that out, it may not mean much, but just to clarify the terminology.

Chairman Sadil: Thank you. Anyone else, commissioners wish to comment about the Mill Pond study.

Commissioner Casasanta: Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Casasanta.

Commissioner Casasanta: Yeah, all I'd like to add is I fully endorse Mr. Hinckley's plan going forward and the approach to parks to see if they are interested in doing something there. So, I would urge support for that.

Commissioner Bachand: I have one more item to add.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Bachand. Thank you Commissioner Casasanta. Commissioner Bachand please continue.

Commissioner Bachand: Yeah and I, we just got, I discussed this or we brought it up with Kathleen and I talked to the parks director last night about it too, and not that it, you know, locked anybody in, but I would like to see, and I think Commissioner Clark agrees, some kind of a master plan for the pond. You know, we're talking about a big project, you know, we're going to be doing a project at the, at Mill Pond, at least we're looking into it right now, so we only have two major ponds in this town and Mill Pond is obviously the main one, we should have some, you know, invest a little bit of money and get a consultant and tell us what's the best way manage that pond. You know, with the plantings and the water and we know it's not pristine, the water quality of course, but the area around it, I would think that, you know, I don't know who we can compel to do that, but I think it's a good idea to have some, maybe some help with that.

E. Hinckley: Mr. Chairman, if I may.

Chairman Sadil: Yes, please Mr. Hinckley.

E. Hinckley: I can certainly bring this to the attention of parks, I know that they're doing some other studies for, you know, a future complex there or something, I'm told. So I can certainly ask to see if they can incorporate a plan for the pond in that or, you know, or even a separate plan sooner than that because I don't know when this other plan might be coming. But I believe it would start at, with parks, because they basically maintain the park and we can see if there is any kind of funding available to do a master plan so to speak. No guarantees, you know, just like giving them the list of invasives, I mean, I can certainly bring it to them, and they may say yeah, we don't have time, or I'm not going to spend the money, but I will certainly broach it with them.

Chairman Sadil: Thank you. Any other comments? Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Clark: I, I've been speaking with Erik on this topic and I actually contacted DEEP to see if DEEP had any specialists who would come to a town and help evaluate and the answer was no. There's a couple of other state departments that, for a fee, can take a look at things, including

Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station, but I didn't pursue it any further because I thought parks and rec, to be honest I wasn't going to take it any further, because I thought we were going to have a discussion with them, I guess that's not happening and I just feel strongly about it. In 1999, I believe, is when the pond was dredged and when we had our conversation in, was it 2016, with Mr. DeMaio, no it was 1/17/17. His comments made it sound like the way the dredging took place was, I want to say apocalyptic, but that's probably the wrong word, that that shouldn't have happened, and it's not a natural pond. And as we know, a wetland is a wetland wherever it came from and after hundreds of years we are calling it a pond, but the question was, there was a plan at that point, that certainly somebody was supervising and I don't know if dredging is the right thing every x number of years, and upon that a lot of silt flows downstream to end up in it, but I just um, again I am very, very concerned about the health of the pond and not just the plants on the perimeter. And I agree with Mr. Bachand who has mentioned, who mentioned at that meeting of January 17, 2017, you brought it up John at that meeting and recommended getting some kind of a specialist to come and look at the pond 3 ½ years ago. So I thank you for that.

Commissioner Paskewich: Commissioner Paskewich here.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Paskewich please.

Commissioner Paskewich: Yes, listening to Kathleen, Commissioner Clark, Gregory Bugbee has been the primary contact person at the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station at the Hamden office, who has been doing evaluations on ponds and lakes in Connecticut exclusively over a number of years. I would just give that, maybe a recommendation, if you want to contact him, he's a very, you know person, he's a person of knowledge and background and actually going out to ponds and lakes in boats and looking at invasives and everything that we have been speaking about. So, that's what I have to give.

Commissioner Clark: Alan...

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Clark: Alan, can you spell, I wondered what the gentleman's last name was.

Commissioner Paskewich: Yeah, it's Bugbee - B, U, G, B, E, E.

Commissioner Clark: Thank you.

Commissioner Paskewich: And the first name is Gregory. He could be found in the soil, he's in the soil department for analysis.

Commissioner Clark: Ok.

Commissioner Paskewich: His mainstay, aside from that because I've listened to him at lectures at Lockwood Plant Science day and he's very knowledgeable and is a person I would recommend there. So, that's it.

Chairman Sadil: Thank you.

Commissioner Paskewich: You're welcome.

Chairman Sadil: If there's no other comments, Commissioner Clark, please proceed to the next portion of your presentation there.

Commissioner Clark: Thank you. I thought that was a worthy direction to take this meeting in and I thank you for that. So, I will also say that I am going to be attending the online version of Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Biennial Conference this year and I'll, that's in mid-October, and I think it's before our next meeting, so I will report at that time. And I'll just give you a short version of, so the uh, the movie that I thought we might be able to make, as far as invasives, may speak to what Ms. Foley is going to speak about and part of Sustainable Connecticut is to produce

projects and one of the categories is invasive plants and actually one of the categories is working with invasive plants with your parks and rec department. So, it would be a very notable thing that would get some recognition for Newington and using a template that is provided by the state. Now I am happy to turn the floor over to Patty Foley.

Patty Foley: Hello everyone and again, I'm Patty Foley. I am the chair of the Environmental Quality Commission. Sustainable Connecticut got put into our lap on December 10, 2019 by the town council and said that the town would like to take part of this certification program and here we are. So, let me tell you a little bit about this and then we'll get on to the, I feel like a fairy godmother, because I've got a whole bunch of answers to some of the things you just brought up. Sustainable CT communities strive to be thriving, resilient, collaborative, and forward-looking - all very important words here. They build community, that means that the town doesn't do it all by themselves, but they involve that community and it helps generate local economy. They equitably promote the health and well-being of current and future residents, and they respect the finite capacity of the natural environment. It's a voluntary certification program for Connecticut municipalities. It's independently funded, grassroots, municipal effort, provides a wide-ranging menu of best practices. Municipalities choose Sustainable CT actions, implement them, and earn points and become certified. And um, as of I think it was a couple of days ago when I was making some notes for tonight; of the 169 towns and cities in Connecticut, 112 cities and towns are signed up. Of that 112, 48 of them are already certified at um, one or two, one or two of the levels. This organization is just over three years old and when you get certified you are certified for only three years. Currently there is eight categories and that is going to be expanded come January 1st. It is a very fluid organization that continues to change. The two tasks of the two levels of certification is to receive 200 points for a bronze level where you go to 400 points for a silver level and we've been hinting about maybe we'd get a gold level which would be some point higher than that. Well, how does invasive plants actually work into all of this? It's very simple. There is an entire section, like I said, there was like eight categories which is being expanded and the category two is about well stewarded land and natural resources. Some of the items in that area are open space, drought and municipal water management, and educating water, on water conservation, managing woodlands and forests, green grounds maintenance and, so the one we are going to speak to tonight, invasives species education and management. Ok, now one other thing that's really important about Sustainable Connecticut and for us, because we are now involved, is that there's funding available. So when you were talking about not being able to funding or get funding there is quite a bit of funding available for certain projectd, big or small. I mean, there's a small matching program. You can do something as small as \$100 and look for matching funds and also something that is tens of thousands of dollars and there's quite a few people and organizations standing up to look for these projects, so uh, keep that in the back of your mind. But let's, let me pull up my item, all right, so what they have, and I've given this to Kathy and hopefully um, uh, she'll have this and maybe be able to get it all to all of you so you can have a chance to digest it.

Chairman Sadil: Ms. Foley, can I interrupt you just for a second?

Ms. Foley: Of course.

Chairman Sadil: So what is Newington's certification level at the moment?

Ms. Foley: Zero.

Chairman Sadil: Nothing.

Ms. Foley: No, actually we got five points.

Chairman Sadil: Ok.

Ms. Foley: We think so, well we haven't, it hasn't been approved, but we did an event and it should qualify us for five points.

Chairman Sadil: Ok, so what's the closest level, bronze?

Ms. Foley: Bronze is 200 points. We are planning....

Chairman Sadil: So we've got a ways to go.

Ms. Foley: We are planning to submit, there's only two times per year you can submit; you can submit in April and in August. Well, obviously April is just too dang close, so we picked August. And I'm glad we did because the new rules go into effect January 1 and it may affect some of the things we are working on or will working on so that it gives us the time to modify anything that we look at. But it requires not just you and I and your commission and my commission - it requires actually town departments and it requires us involving our community. Kathy's got a really good thing and that's how I found out that she was doing something on invasive plants when I saw the video she did for the Chester Land Trust and it was really good.

Chairman Sadil: So, just to be clear, this is a state program, these ten thousand...

Ms. Foley: No, it's not a state program, it's an independent program.

Chairman Sadil: It is what?

Ms. Foley: It does not belong to the state of Connecticut, it is an independent program.

Chairman Sadil: So who funds these projects then?

Ms. Foley: Really generous people.

Chairman Sadil: Oh, it's like an endowment of some sort.

Ms. Foley: Yeah, I don't, I haven't pulled their 990 to find out how they are funded, but I'll eventually find out. Right now I'm just worried about how to get points.

Chairman Sadil: All right.

Ms. Foley: All right, um, but I will, I'm sure I'm going to learn more about the actual organization in and of itself. Ok, so the evasive...each category, like I said open space, it has a multitude of categories, subcategories beneath it. So we are going to stick with evasive, invasive plants at this point. There's three categories and the first category, and I'm going to clarify if there's three sections all three sections have to be completed to receive credit, and its to examine the regulations that the municipality has not unintentionally supporting the use of non-native species and eliminate all invasive species from lists of acceptable plants. So it's like ok, what to we, what do we actually do here, if anything. And then it says to embed invasive species management practices into your grounds maintenance practices for the town, not just around the pond but all over. They also talk about widespread use of herbicides and pesticides and the last item of that group is to educate municipal grounds keeping staff on invasive species management practices and so forth. The next group it talking about, let's make it, it's a really short one, it's engage in invasive species management practices on municipal properties. So, get a description of what is being done, put it together and that's all done. It keeps it really simple. Then the third section is on the municipal website, our town website, post invasive species education resources to know. Are there links? Even if its to an external source, outlining invasive species identification and removal techniques. Can somebody go here and find this information? And in that same section is host or sponsor an educational workshop for residents about invasive species and safe removal processes. Now most of Connecticut, Sustainable Connecticut, most sections have to be done within 12 years, uh, 12 months of, of our submission. So being the fact that it's next August gives us plenty of time in which to take care of getting these things done and they'll be in our August package. We, we would like to hope that way. But these are some of the items that um, really put you on the map and part of it was, I, I just went over something the other day, sent it into the town manager and said, well how come I can't get into this. There is actually, I forget the name of the organization again, who has a booklet out that's about 4-years old about evasive species and plants and

so forth in the Connecticut River Valley, they are a separate non-profit. Well, I searched to see if it was on our website because I did, I found it on the library under home and garden as a link to their booklet. But only because I looking at this and coming to speak to you tonight did I even think about asking about some of this information; which I think is really important because homeowners don't know. They see something cute and adorable and maybe this like and the then they find out that it's not the best thing to have in their yard or as a municipality on our places. There are two actually additional things that are coming into, which may have a little bit, is a green ground maintenance program which should affect your species plants and also there's a new one coming up, starting in January, talking about pollinator parkways, uh, pathways, excuse me, because these are all important things about our environment. So, with that mini overview I'm willing to take questions or comments and whatever I don't know, I'll get you an answer.

Chairman Sadil: Is there a website for this information that you were just elaborating on? Is that somewhere on the town website somewhere?

Ms. Foley: Not yet, I'm working on it, but you can go directly to Sustainable Connecticut and that website is sustainablect.org.

E. Hinckley: Yeah, I've been on it, it has a lot of information on a number of different topics like she said, but especially invasives which are something you guys can deal with.

Ms. Foley: I mean there's a whole bunch of areas you that you all deal with because you're the Conservation Commission.

Chairman Sadil: Well, I'm looking forward to seeing how this video that Commissioner Clark, are you working with her on this video? Can you explain, just a few words about that, how we're going to get some points, but if Commissioner Clark puts this video together say of Mill Pond or Stanley Park, is that the goal here? I thought that was the focus tonight was to see how that meshes with your, with your commission.

Commissioner Clark: What, what I would say...

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Clark: We are just in the beginning of this because I just made this video for Cheshire Land Trust like two weeks ago and Patty saw the video and we just started talking and that's when I found out that for our Sustainable Connecticut application we could do something similar to Cheshire did, so, we're just in its infancy. My question, to our commission is, do we have the blessings of our commission, if we do something like this do we get to say "and I'm representing Newington Conservation Commission." I think that's all that I would ask because at this point in time, if we need help I would send out feelers to anybody on the commission, and in fact I'd also like to expand to you, if anybody on the commission would like a tour of Mill Pond bank and I can show them what I was talking about, I would like to extend that to other members of the commission. So it's kind of, that would be what we probably start doing a video of, or at least try it and play it back and see what it looks like. So that's where we're at. I was thinking that what I just learned that I could do through Cheshire Land Trust, I'm offering to take the newly learned skills, plus what Patty has through NCTV and being a videographer and Sustainable Connecticut, all three of those things could come together and create something.

Chairman Sadil: Nice trilogy.

Ms. Foley: Well it's what, we're looking for is, when you look at this particular certification, it is really high level and it searches down, not just to departments or to the commissions or to committees, but it really, we have to reach out to our public and bring them in so that we educate everyone.

Commissioner Paskewich: I have a question.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Paskewich has been waiting.

Ms. Foley: Oh, I'm sorry.

Commissioner Paskewich: Uh, yes, I certainly give my blessing to Commissioner Clark on the efforts that's she's concentrated on the invasive plants for quite some time and I am more than happy to take a visit with her and any other persons around Mill Pond and have her point out her background on what she's seen and what she suggests. Thank you.

Chairman Sadil: Ok. You certainly have my endorsement Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Clark: Thank you.

Commissioner Casasanta: Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Sadil: Yes. Commissioner Casasanta.

Commissioner Casasanta: Thank you. I just want to, uh, Commissioner Casasanta here. I just wondered if, as a commission, if the commission would be in favor of maybe an endorsement of this effort; give a little additional gravitas. Just a proposal I wanted to throw out there and speaking for myself personally, I fully endorse what Commissioner Clark is doing in this effort.

Chairman Sadil: So when you, Commissioner Casasanta, as far as endorsement, how do we publicize that endorsement. We do that on sustainable? What's the good...?

Commissioner Casasanta: Yeah, I mean, I would imagine drafting some kind of a statement of support for the, for the efforts, um, you know, saying we fully endorse what...what's being attempted to be done here, and, um, you know, one of those type of statements just saying we support the work that's being done with this initiative.

Chairman Sadil: Now where would we publish that? On the website, on their website?

Commissioner Casasanta: Well, I mean, right now they can use it on, you know, as part of the website, you know, it would be part of our minutes, so it would be publicized that way. I think it would be something for them to promote on their website.

Chairman Sadil: Ok.

Ms. Foley: I got a question. Who is their website?

Chairman Sadil: Your website.

Commissioner Casasanta: I'm sorry, can I answer that? Because I am the one who said their website. I was under the impression that you were planning to start up a website.

Ms. Foley: No, it would be a web page on the town's website.

Commissioner Casasanta: Web page, yeah, ok...

Ms. Foley: Now it's included in the town since this is all about the Town of Newington and the citizens.

Commissioner Casasanta: Absolutely, all I'm saying is we could just give our support, you know, if you felt that would be helpful...

Ms. Foley: Absolutely.

Commissioner Casasanta: All I'm recommending is, as a commission, we give our support to what you are trying to do and you can publicize that on the web page.

Ms. Foley: Yup, we'll take it. There on the Web and we'll take it to social media, we're going to take it to NCTV. So, in between regular scheduled programming you can put up a slide or two and say that the Conservation Commission supports this and moving forward please contact whatever to know, to find out more about it.

Commissioner Casasanta: Fantastic.

Ms. Foley: Yeah, I mean, we had actually had a program set up with the library who's arranged, um, a talk that we were going to do on recycling until COVID hit and cancelled the whole deal. So, we're in the process of attempting to re...get it rescheduled um, in a time where doing a meeting or seminar or whatever it's a little more challenging. It takes a little more, um, ingenuity to do it, but it's doable as we go forward. So yes, and therefore also give good press to your particular commission and make people realize what...what it is that you do there.

Commissioner Casasanta: That's all I had.

Chairman Sadil: Thank you Commissioner Casasanta. Is there anyone else?

Commissioner Turgeon: Mr. Chairman? Max Turgeon.

Chairman Sadil: Commissioner Turgeon.

Commissioner Turgeon: Um, hi Patty, thanks for joining us tonight, it's nice to hear from you. Um, so I just have a question, a clarification. So, you there's a...there's a bronze and silver level and once you reach those levels you're eligible for grants. Is that correct?

Ms. Foley: No, you're eligible right this minute.

Commissioner Turgeon: Ok, ok, and so...

Ms. Foley: And the grants are helping you get your points. Let's say you had to hire something and there was no budget, you would put together a small proposal. This is nothing fancy dancy. But you could put it together, you put it out there, you see what, you know, what's available who's...who is looking to do work, um, support in that particular area.

Commissioner Turgeon: Gotcha. Thank you for that clarification.

Ms. Foley: Yeah, it's a really good question. No, it's from day one you can start applying and it doesn't matter. You, individually Max, can go and apply for one of these loans in order to do this because you live in a sustain...now a town that is searching to get their certification. This is...this is an amazing organization that has put this together and it really requires a lot of coordination among everyone, which I find very interesting.

Chairman Sadil: Ok, is there anyone else? Any commissioners, any questions for Ms. Foley? Is that a hand up Commissioner Clark?

Commissioner Clark: No, I was coughing.

Chairman Sadil: Oh, ok.

Commissioner Bachand: I think her cat wants to say something.

Chairman Sadil: The cat can't vote.

Commissioner Bachand: I just want to say thank you to, John Bachand, I just want to say thank you to Patty for all her efforts, it's... a lot of that went over my head I'll be honest with you, but I'll have to, I'll have to pay some more attention to it.

Chairman Sadil: All right, does that conclude that discussion then?

Ms. Foley: Thank you all very much for allowing me to speak.

Chairman Sadil: Thank you Ms. Foley for the presentation and the time. All right, that concludes our agenda. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Turgeon to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Casasanta. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Gibbon", written in a cursive style.

Susan Gibbon

Recording Secretary